

OXFORD OBSERVER.

"LOVE ALL, DO WRONG TO NONE, BE CHECK'D FOR SILENCE BUT NEVER TAK'D FOR SPEECH.".....SHAKESPEARE.

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TRIAL OF REID.

From the New-York American.

GENERAL SESSIONS.

THE PEOPLE, vs. JOHN REID.

Present, the Hon. Richard Riker, Recorder, and Aldermen Wyckoff and Cowdrey—Indictment, *Altemple to Poison*. Counsel for the People, Maxwell, District Attorney, D. Graham, and Wilson. For the Prisoner, Griffin, Price, and S. B. Romaine.

Mr. Maxwell opened the case in an able speech, in which he detailed the various circumstances connected with the case, and the probable causes of Reid's malignity. It would appear, he said, from the testimony of a witness, whom if necessary they would produce, that an infant of tender years, living in the same room with Reid, and which had suddenly disappeared, had at least, if it died a natural death, been improperly disposed of. Mrs. Carrol, with the anxiety of a mother, went to Mrs. Robb, the mother of the child, living with Reid, and communicated her suspicions. Mrs. Robb was much alarmed at Mrs. C.'s intimations, and begged her to desist from the inquiry, and not let it reach the ears of Reid. By some means, however, Reid became acquainted with Mrs. C.'s suspicions, and from that day he had commenced a series of persecutions against this unfortunate family, which had terminated, as he would attempt to show, by this base attempt to poison. After reminding the jury that the evidence in the case was altogether circumstantial, and it would therefore be necessary to weigh each fact with caution, Mr. M. proceeded to call

Ann Carrol, who testified that she is the mother of five children. On Sunday morning, the 9th of January, witness' youngest daughter, Mary Carrol, rose with her father before the rest of the family. Witness was in bed. She heard the dog bark, and the child went to the door, and shortly came running back, and said, "Oh! mother, I have found a basket of cakes." Witness supposed the cakes had been given to the child by some of the neighbors, as she was a great favorite; and took the basket, and told her she might eat some of them. The basket contained on top part of a New-Year's cake, then some muffins, and next some round hearts, and cranberry tarts. The muffins were split in two, and buttered, with some smoked beef on the butter. The child took the cranberry tarts, and broke one in two, and gave part of it to her brother, and ate the rest herself. Witness took a little of the juice. The other tart the child divided into four pieces, three of which she gave to her three sisters, and the other to her father, who was in the yard. In a few minutes they were taken sick. Witness felt very sick at the stomach, with a pain across the breast as if she would tear to pieces. The children retched, and were in great agony. Witness continued retching until night. Dr. Ayres came in about an hour, and administered for a poison. The taste was insipid, and there was a burning in the throat.

Dr. Ayres testified that he was called upon to visit the Carrol family, and found them complaining of thirst, hoarseness, retching, and great pain in the region of the stomach; that they labored under great anxiety, coldness of the extremities, dryness of the fauces, and paleness, and that he prescribed for them as having taken poison.

In order to prove Reid's malignity towards the Carrol family, Henry Meigs, justice of the fifth and eighth ward court, testified that on the 4th of October, 1823, an action of ejectment was tried before him, in which Reid was plaintiff, Carrol defendant; that a verdict was given for plaintiff of \$3 50 cts. but in consequence of a representation made by Jane Carrol that her sister was sick, witness refused to issue the order for removal. Reid was very angry at wit-

ness for his refusal, and very pressing to obtain the warrant, but witness refused to grant it. Reid knew that the child was sick.

Jane Carrol, aged 17, testified, that on the day of the trial in the Justices' Court, after returning, she saw Reid and Mary Robb go out together. The same night her mother was taken to the watch-house. Reid came with three watchmen, and opened the door and pointed to her mother, and said, "that's her, take her off." Little Mary was very sick, and her mother had just taken the drafts off her feet. She pointed out to the watchmen in the presence of Reid the situation of the child, but one of them said it was no matter, she must go along with them. Witness' mother then sent her over to Mr. Muzzle's for advice. When witness returned, her mother was sitting in the entry, in the way in which Traphagan, one of the watchmen, had dragged her out. The child was clinging to her. Her mother appeared to be fainting, and when witness went towards her, Traphagan pushed her away. It rained hard, and a gentleman passing as they were going to the watch-house, came up and held his umbrella over her. Traphagan was all the while pushing her in the back with the staff.

George B. Raymond testified, that on a Saturday evening, some time in October, 1823, Reid, and a female, called at the police office and obtained a warrant against Mrs. Carrol, on the complaint of the woman, for a breach of the peace. Reid was very urgent to have the warrant served immediately, and on witness refusing as it was against a woman, and might be served some other time, Reid was very angry and turned to the justice and wished him to order the warrant served, but the justice refused, as it was in an officer's hands and would be attended to. Reid then tried to coax witness to serve it, and offered him money, but witness was then suspicious and refused entirely. He afterwards left word, that he had a process, at Mrs. Carrol's house, and she came to the office. Andrew Blakely, one of the captains of the watch, testified, that on Saturday evening, the 4th day of October, an application was made to him by Reid for some watchmen to take Mrs. Carrol to the watch house, as she had sworn "she would have vengeance on him before the next morning." Mrs. Carrol was brought to the watch house, and a sick child with her—"the child appeared to be shivering."

Cross-examined.—Says that Mrs. C. was much irritated and in tears. She complained that Reid and Traphagan had both used violence to get her out of the house. John W. Kim, testified, that on the evening of the fourth of October, 1823, he went to the watch house and found Mrs. Carrol there. She was in a very unpleasant situation; she appeared to be wet through; and had a sick child in her arms, and two or three children clinging to her gown. Witness requested and obtained permission to take her and family to his house, on condition of returning them to the Police in the morning. The child was so unwell that witness and his wife were obliged to sit up nearly all night to attend to her. In the morning, witness took them to the Police Office, and they were shortly after bailed.

John S. Carrol corroborated Mrs. Carrol's statement with regard to the condition of his family after eating the cakes. Witness observed something like loaf sugar grated over the tart, the taste was like copper, and accompanied with a burning in the throat. Witness' agony was so great, that he was obliged to lean on a shovel to ease the pain.

Jacob Hays testified that on the 9th day of January inst. he was called upon to go up to Mrs. Carrol's; that he went up and found the family in the situation related. Mrs. Carrol told witness she believed that she had seen the basket before. Witness sent for Mr. Hopson, one of the police magistrates, and then went up to Reid's, and found in his room some grass twine, corresponding to that on the basket; in a drawer of the side-board found some round hearts, and in another drawer a piece of New-Year's cake; in the secretary under the papers found two cranberry tarts, and near them in a pigeon hole of the secretary found a quantity of arsenic, and over a door between the two rooms found three muffins. The muffins were exposed to all the dust. Witness also found a basket containing fishing tackle, &c.

Henry Abell corroborated Mr. Hays' statement. Witness was not particular in his comparison of the cakes, but thinks they all compared.

Mr. Hopson testified that he found on the prisoner a leather bag containing arsenic, which prisoner said he wore for the piles.

A number of eminent physicians testified to the effects of arsenic on the human system, all corresponding to the symptoms exhibited by the Carrol family. The quantity of arsenic found at Reid's was represented as unusually large to be found in a private house—it was mixed with flour. Mr. Curtis testified to the comparison of the cakes found at Reid's and those at Mrs. Carrol's.

Mrs. Carrol again called.—Cannot safely say that she has seen the basket before, but thinks she has seen it in the hands of Mrs. Robb. Some remarks having been made on the district attorney's opening, Mr. Maxwell proceed-

ed to examine Mrs. Carrol, relative to the charge made in his opening, as to the improper disposition of the body of the child. It appeared from the witness' testimony, that sometime about the 4th of July, a child of Mrs. Robb's had died, which child had been taken away early in the morning of the 4th of July, by a black man, accompanied by Reid.

Cato White testified, that on the 4th of July, early in the morning, he was picked up by a man in the street, who took him to a house in Spring street, and gave him a coffin, which he took, and carried up to Potter's Field, and received two shillings from the man. Witness laid the coffin on the stoop, and went away. One of the jurors being unwell, the counsel consented that another juror should be sworn.

The defence was opened by S. B. Romaine. He said in this case, they should insist on the same satisfaction that they should if he, (Reid) had himself presented these tarts to Carrol. He then touched on the different points in the testimony, and proceeded to call

Dr. Ludlow.—Witness was called to visit the family of Mr. Carrol, about 2 o'clock, and was there about half an hour, perhaps not so long. Was never before called to a case of poisoning. At the time he was called, Dr. Brush and the apothecary had administered medicines.—Witness would suppose the symptoms ought to have been more violent, if arsenic had been given. Is doubtful whether arsenic had been used or not.

Cross-examined.—Forms his opinion from what he saw while there, which was after the medicine had been administered. They complained more of what they had suffered, than of what they were then suffering. Witness agrees with Dr. Francis as to the effect of small portions of arsenic, and the symptoms.

Doctor Osborn. Witness has heard the testimony of Mrs. Carrol, and that of her daughter, partially; thinks that the effects stated by Mrs. Carrol might have been produced by antimony. Thinks it extraordinary that out of seven persons, one at least should not have died; and still more extraordinary, that they were all sick simultaneously; thinks a hundred times the quantity of antimony might have been given with safety, that might be of arsenic—the latter is more difficult of solution. Witness has heard of various medicated belts, and of arsenic belts—they were used in London as a preservative against the plague. Witness does not give it as his medical opinion, but as recorded in the books. Is not prepared to say that it would act as a vomit quicker on an empty stomach, but would certainly act more deadly. Being asked what effect the imagination would have on persons who supposed themselves poisoned, witness quoted Hobbins—

"Imagination is such a witch," &c. Witness states that if cranberries were boiled in a copper vessel, it would be an active metallic poison.

Cross-examined. Symptoms of poisoning are dryness of the fauces, parched throat, and great pain in the regions of the stomach.—Should think it extraordinary if muffins or new-year's cake, produced the same consequence as cranberry tart. Has no doubt imagination would produce effects in one, but thinks it wonderful that it should in so many. Imagination would suspend the action of the poison.

Abraham L. Braine carries a bag with arsenic in it—has been acquainted with Reid thirty years, and knows that he used the same bag.

Cross-examined. Witness never was in Spring street but twice. Saw a young woman—was never introduced—saw one child there.

Edward Lavared testified, that he gave the recipe to Reid, and about twenty others.

Wm. H. Izard is a baker, and has known Reid about five years. He is in the habit of buying from four to five shillings worth of cakes at a time.

Cross-examined. Witness makes the tarts and cakes himself. Does not use a copper vessel to boil his tarts in, but an iron one.

Mr. Hays. Examined room of Reid—it had the appearance of the room of a man of peculiar habits: there was a collection of strange things there, but it was not like a museum.

Cross-examined. The rope was found in the back room, said to be Mrs. Robb's room. The writing chair appeared to have been used. Mrs. Robb said her husband had been writing there.

John Anderson. Is a dealer in ropes, and has dealt in them 20 years. The rope exhibited is the strand of a large cable. Is a common rope, but not in that form. It comes in East India vessels in cables and running rigging, but never saw any thing like this, unless he himself untwisted a strand.

Cross-examined. Clothes' lines are not made of layar, but of Manila. Layar never comes in the form exhibited here. The piece on the basket and the piece exhibited, witness should suppose were of the same strand. Should suppose all the piece belonged to the same rope, but to a different strand.

John Glancey. Has been a dealer in ropes nine or ten years. Has seen this kind of rope frequently, but never saw it in strands; it is uncommon.

Ephraim Gilbert. Is the son of Alderman Gilbert. Found the bundle of ropes on the table of prisoner's counsel at Gouverneur's wharf.

Should suppose there was half a cart load there of different sizes.

Cross-examined. Witness lives on Reid's premises; was yesterday requested to look for rope, by Reid, who sent for him, and told him the kind and color he wanted. Procured the piece of Manila on Gouverneur's wharf, from brig Howard. Went to Gouverneur's wharf in expectation of finding grass ropes; went there by Reid's direction. Went to no other wharf; went directly to the spot; had a conversation with Reid the night before and the same morning. Reid named Gouverneur's wharf, and told witness that there was rope of that kind there. Reid went with him; met a colored man, who told them where to find the grass. The night before Reid told him Gouverneur's wharf.—The black man first told them of Gouverneur's wharf. This witness' evidence throughout was as contradictory as the specimens given above.

Noel Blanche, Samuel B. Romaine, Robert Barnes, Alexander Ming, John Ferguson, James Campbell, and a number of others testified to the general good character of the prisoner.—Mrs. Carrol's children, on behalf of the prosecution, testified to the effects of the poison and their sensations. Neither of the children ever saw a man by the name of Robb.

Richard Riker, Recorder, testified to Reid's evidence on the trial of the cause against Mrs. Carrol; that on that trial Reid had sworn "that he did not ask Raymond or any other person in his behalf, to arrest Mr. Carrol; that the other tenants were afraid of their lives."

Mr. S. Nichols, one of the jurors, testified that he met Mr. Maxwell this morning on Gouverneur's wharf; that he heard yesterday Gilbert's testimony, that there was half a load of rope there; found none there. Witness went to satisfy himself.

Ephraim Gilbert called for prosecution. Did not go home with Reid last night—did go home with Reid last night. Went out this morning with Mr. Reid for witness—went to the house; next door to Mr. Carrol's—did not go into the garret—the lady ordered him out of the house.

Deborah Ann Shue lived at No. 104 Water-street—has nine children—lived in Reid's house in Beach-street.—Mr. Reid did not use her family well. Never saw a Mr. Robb there.

Mrs. Donlevy testified that she was called at a late hour in the night, by a person in a coach to go with him—went with him and delivered a woman—went in the night and returned in the night—left no female with the woman—don't know that she ever was called to see the child when sick, or ever afterwards.

Captain Trombs for defendant. The cord of the basket is a piece of chiar; the other is of grass, and not from the same part of the world. Finds chiar every day—it is used for mats.

Mr. Traphagan.—Has been suborned by Mr. Carrol.—Was at the house of Mr. Carrol, on the 4th of October, 1823. Is assistant captain of the watch. Went to Mrs. Carrol's and brought her to the watch house. At the time he was in the house, understood that Mrs. Carrol had a sick child. She was not dragged down to his recollection.

Cross-examined.—Never had any difficulty with any person before this, in the discharge of twenty years' duty. Never would have taken Mrs. Carrol out on that evening, if she had not been represented as a worthless, abandoned woman. Reid went with him, and pointed out Mrs. Carrol, and said, "that's the woman, take her to the watch house."

Mrs. Lauretta Dickinson, for defendant.—Lived in the house of Mr. Reid; he was very kind to her—heard no complaints except from Mrs. Carrol.

Cross-examined.—Witness has had a quarrel with Mrs. Carrol. Mrs. McComb, Mrs. Carrol, and her family are very quarrelsome. Witness has been many a time at Reid's. Was at Reid's when a child was born; never saw Mr. Robb there.

Two or three other witnesses were here introduced, who swore to the same facts.

Col. Hunter.—Has seen Carrol intoxicated within two years. His character, as respects truth, is very bad.

Cross-examined.—Carrol is life-major to his regiment. On the presentation of a sword last fall, Carrol was intoxicated; in September also, at Staten Island. Did not offer Carrol any particular sum to settle with Reid. Sent for Carrol to know why he had not played the reveille; conversed on other subjects, his law suit, &c.; had no interest save as regards Carrol's interests. Likes to protect those who cannot protect themselves. Never sent Mr. Reid to obtain testimony. Has had no quarrel, save as to neglect of duty.

A number of witnesses testified to the good character of Carrol, and his being a reformed man for the last two years.—Two witnesses contradicted Col. Hunter's testimony as to Carrol's being intoxicated at the time of the presentation of the sword.

Mrs. Coddington testified that she has seen Mr. Robb with a basket exactly like the one exhibited.

Mr. Madden has seen Mrs. Robb carrying a basket just like this one, under his arm. She thinks there was no handle to it, but was not particular.

[See fourth Page for remainder.]

[Concluded from the first Page.]

then for you to decide is, was the family of the Carrolls poisoned? On that subject we think there is no difficulty. The evidence of Dr. Lyre is conclusive on that subject. The very nature of the case debars all doubt that they were poisoned by some metallic poison, and as these tarts were incrustured with a white powder of which nature arsenic has been proved to be,—we must conclude they were poisoned by arsenic.—Forming this conclusion, gentlemen, that poison was administered, we arrive at the second question, by whom was it administered? or who, in the range of human probability, was the most likely to have administered it? And first, it has been suggested by the counsel for the prisoner, that these cakes might have been left by some charitable person, perfectly unconscious of their having been poisoned; but this been the case would they not have immediately come forward and given an explanation; but we think the suggestion improbable, there would not have been this mystery about the act of charity. The next supposition of the counsel is that Carroll may himself have poisoned these tarts, or infused some slight emetic

light their diet, the more they will thrive.—
Each food will keep their body regular, and
they cannot be long well if you neglect that
essential point. When opening medicine must
be given to supply the defect of nature, a little
calomel or magnesia is safest. A careful and
diligent mother will attend to these particulars,
keeping all her children under her own eye,
and giving them lessons of more value than
gold or jewels, in the time that lazy and gad-
ding gossips are looking at their fingers, or driv-
ing and ligharing news.

ANECDOTES.

has just received a consignment of Machine
Tools, from the Manufactory of Horace Smith, Lie-
ger, which will be warranted to give satisfaction.
Orders for any quantity executed at short no-
tice.

JOHN TRIPP, Secretary.

Orders for any quantity executed at short no-

Feb. 14, 1873. JOHN TRIPP, Secretary.
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empowered to choose at the